

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02072 031008Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /100 W
-----006160 031207Z /50

R 030800Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9349
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GV, ML
SUBJ: GUINEAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MALI

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GUINEAN PRESIDENT SDKOU TOURE ARRIVED IN BAMA KO FROM TRIPOLI FOR STATE VISIT SUNDAY, APRIL 23, AND DEPARTED FOR CONAKRY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, TRAVELING ON LIBYAN 707. DURING HIS STAY, HE ATTENDED A CULTURAL EVENING APRIL 23, ADDRESSED A PACKED BAMA KO STADIUM APRIL 24, FLEW TO TIMBUKTU AND SEGOU APRIL 25, AND RETURNED AT NOON APRIL 26 TO BAMA KO, LEAVING FOR HOME A FEW HOURS LATER.

2. IN BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT TO PRESS, PRESIDENT TOURE SAID THAT RECENT GUINEAN RECONCILIATION WITH IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL
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WAS NEITHER A BEGINNING NO AN END BUT A CONTINUITY, FOR RUPTURE WAS NOT POSSIBLE IN RELATIONS OF BROTHERS AND NEIGHBORS. HE SAID THAT HIS MALIAN TRIP REAFFIRMED GUINEAN SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF MALI. IN SPEECHES AT BAMA KO AND TIMBUKTU, GUINEAN PRESIDENT URGED MALIAN CITIZENS TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRAORE'S PROGRAM OF NATIONAL RENEWAL AND TO ADHERE TO NEW POLITICAL PARTY, DEMOCRATIC UNION OF MALIAN PEOPLE.

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3. COMMENT: THIS STATE VISIT WAS APPARENTLY PLANNED AT LAST MINUTE. SEKOU TOURE HAD BEEN EXPECTED AS EARLY AS FOUR DAYS BEFORE HE ACTUALLY ARRIVED, AND HIS SCHEDULE IN MALI CHANGED FROM DAY TO DAY. A STATE DINNER PLANNED FOR EVENING OF APRIL 26 WAS CANCELED ONLY HOURS BEFORE IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE WHEN PRESIDENT TOURE DECIDED TO RETURN TO CONAKRY EARLY, APPARENTLY SUDDENLY FINDING HE HAD BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAD TO BE SENT TO CONAKRY FOR "RATIFICATION" BEFORE IT WAS PUBLISHED HERE TWO DAYS AFTER TOURE'S DEPARTURE.

4. DESPITE ALL THE IMPROVISATION, MALIANS LAID ON ROYAL WELCOME. CROWDS WERE LARGE AND SPONTANEOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC WHEREVER TOURE APPEARED IN PUBLIC.

5. FROM MALIAN PERSPECTIVE, PRESIDENT TOURE'S TRIP HAD TWO BENEFITS. FIRST, MALIAN OFFICIALDON, WITNESS-ING DRAMATIC CHANGES IN GUINEAN FOREIGN POLICY AND SUBTLE MODULATIONS IN ITS DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PRACTICE, WAS CURIOUS AS TO WHERE GUINEA WAS HEADED. ACTING DIRECTOR, POLITICAL DIVISION, MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, QUIZZED POLITICAL OFFICER EXTENSIVELY APRIL 21 REGARDING U.S. VIEWS ON SHIFTS IN GUINEAN POLICY. VISIT THUS GAVE MALIANS FIRST-HAND INSIGHT INTO NEW GUINEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTIONS. SECOND, VISIT OF POPULAR AFRICAN LEADER (MORE POPULAR HERE THAN AT HOME, ONE MALIAN OBSERVED), LENT REAL SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT TRAORE'S GOVERNMENT, STILL SHAKY AFTER ABORTED COUP ATTEMPT AT END OF FEBRUARY. PRESIDENT TRAORE MUST HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL INDEED TO HEAR VETERAN POLITICAL RADICAL, SEKOU TOURE, URGE OLD CIVILIAN PARTY MILITANTS TO GIVE UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT TO MALIAN PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL PROGRAM. BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAMAKO02072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0586
Format: TEL
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgvj.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ed31b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2811003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUINEAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MALI BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GV, ML, SG, IV, (TRAORE, MOUSSA), (TOURE, SEKOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ed31b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014